

From: Christopher White
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse and the United States Department of Justice Antitrust staff,

I believe that the proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft is woefully inadequate.

Microsoft broke the law and harmed other companies. Its monopoly status in the consumer OS world, its continued attempts to dominate other markets (like high-end servers), and its arrogant stance regarding the law and ethical business practices, needs to be addressed in the firmest manner.

The nine states that refused to sign on to the proposed DOJ/Microsoft settlement have the right idea. Microsoft needs to be punished for breaking the law. Microsoft needs to open up its proprietary systems and allow others to have a chance to build software for its operating system (OS) instead of bundling everything into one monolithic system (look at Windows XP -- there is an example of even worse bundling!). I favored Judge Jackson's remedy of breaking up the company, but failing that, Microsoft at least needs to be severely disciplined, its business practices scrutinized carefully, and its monopoly status destroyed. Without a severe remedy the computer industry will still be at the mercy of Microsoft -- and other OSes (like Linux and Mac OS X) will languish for lack of support.

I am a professional in the computer industry. I am a programmer and systems administrator. I have to use and support Microsoft's OSes, as well as others, every day in various capacities (desktop and server). I like many things about Microsoft, and the company makes many good products. But it is harming its own reputation within the industry, and alienating many of its potential friends, by its behavior. The problem is that Microsoft just can't seem to behave like a team player. It has become a monopoly. It now behaves as such. Just as the DOJ broke up AT&T years ago, so it needs to break up Microsoft -- or at least severely restrict its predatory business policies.

Please don't waste this opportunity to help the computer industry by reining in Microsoft before it owns the entire industry. Abandon your inadequate settlement proposal and put your weight behind the nine states that did not agree with this settlement.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. White
Santa Rosa CA

